

U.S. Coral Reef Monitoring Project Survey

Part 1. Project Summary

Survey administered by: ASCH

Project ID:

Date Administered (dd-mo-yy): 2-Sept.-99

Project title: Monitoring of Coral Diseases in Virgin Islands National Park, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Principal investigators

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Keywords (provide several keywords that describe project data):

CORAL REEF

CORAL DISEASES

Project Summary:

Coral diseases are being monitored on two reefs within Virgin Islands National Park. At least a dozen species have been infected. Samples of diseased tissue were sent to Dr. Laura Richardson who identified the pathogen as a species of bacteria.

Spatial Coverage of Database

Spatial Coverage (briefly describe geographic extent of project):

Two reefs within Virgin Islands National Park

Geographic Extent (Bounding rectangle in decimal degrees);

North _____ West _____ South _____ East _____

Are data aggregated into geographic units: ☒ yes ☐ no

Are data available in disaggregated form: ☐ yes ☐ no

How was spatial accuracy determined:

☐ NOAA Nautical Chart ☐ USGS Quad ☐ Loran ☐ County Road Map
☐ Survey ☐ GPS ☐ Other:

Temporal Characteristics of Database**Temporal characteristics (brief narrative):**

This is an on-going project which began in July 1997. Reefs are monitored once a month.

Period of Record:

Begin (d/mo/yr): July 1997

End (d/mo/yr): present

Sampling is: ☒ Ongoing ☐ Planned ☐ Historic

Frequency of Sampling:

☐ Hourly ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☒ Monthly ☐ Annually ☐ Other:

Sampling Interval:

☒ Fixed

☐ Intermittent

How is sampling recorded?

☐ Automated

☒ Non-automated

Data Parameters:**Specific Constituents/Parameters Sampled (include units):**

AREA OF DISEASED CORALL

PERCENT OF LIVING CORAL BY SPECIES

Methodology:**Provide a short description about how monitoring data are gathered/acquired:**

Data are gathered using sequential photographs of individual coral colonies. Along transects, the percent of coral that is diseased is estimated and measurements of the affected colonies are taken. Underwater videotapes are also used to document the diseased corals.

On what basis were sites selected?

The two sites represent some of the most developed reefs within the park. They also were exhibiting very extensive disease.

How are samples processed, stored, and archived in the field?**How are samples processed, stored, and archived in the laboratory?**

Slides and videotapes are stored in the office with appropriate metadata. Data are entered into Access.

What methods were used for sample analysis and quality assurance?

☒ Data quality analysis

☐ Chemical analysis

Describe any assumptions in assembling/acquiring monitoring data:

Describe the primary limitations with monitoring data:

The primary limitations are limited spatial coverage and difficulties assessing pathogens from different coral species and different sites.

Database Characteristics:

Format:

☒ Digital ☒ Map
☒ Hardcopy (reports, data sheets, tables) ☐ Other_____

Status (check one):

☐ Database Available/Being Distributed ☒ Portions of Database Available
☐ Data Not Available ☐ Other_____

Predominant Data Type:

☒ Numeric ☐ Qualitative

How is data stored (hardware & software):

It is archived after verification.

Data Structure:

☒ Discrete Points (sampling site) ☐ Line/transect (e.g., shoreline, beach)
☐ Polygon (watershed)

Data Completeness (check one):

☐ Data clean ☒ Data need minor work ☐ Data need major work ☐ Other: The data is not yet available.

Data Maintenance (check one):

☐ No maintenance ☒ Intermittent maintenance ☐ Periodic maintenance (fixed intervals)
☐ Continuous maintenance ☐ Other: The data is not yet available.

Are the following elements in this database available for each sampling location (check all that apply)?

☒ Station Location (lat/long coordinates of site or areal unit)
☒ Frequency of Sampling (by station location)
☒ Constituents/Parameters Sampled (by station location)
☒ Period of Record

Use and Users:

How is data used?

☒ Research

☒ Monitoring

☒ Planning

☒ Management

☐ Regulatory

Users (identify specific institutions):

☒ Federal Government

☐ State Government

☐ Local Government

☐ Regional Entities

☒ Academic:

Data Availability:

On-line (describe how to access, i.e., bbs, Telnet, world wide web):

N/A

Off-line: (describe how to access):

Contact the principal investigator.

Are costs associated with requests? ☐ yes ☒ no

If yes, please explain:

Access constraints (describe briefly any constraints for accessing data set):

Use constraints (describe briefly any constraints for using data set):
